

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-10 are currently active in the present application. Claim 8 has been amended by way of the present amendment. No new matter has been added.

In the outstanding office action, claims 8-10 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by figures 20 and 21 of the "APA." Claims 1-7 have been indicated as being allowable. Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter.

Applicants further acknowledge with appreciation the courtesy of an interview granted to Applicants' attorney on November 19, 2003, at which time the outstanding issue regarding claims 8-10 were discussed. Applicants proposed an amendment regarding claim 8. The Examiner acknowledged that the amendment appeared to overcome the outstanding rejection. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claim 8 as proposed during the interview. If the Examiner reconsiders his assessment that the amendment to claim 8 overcomes the outstanding rejection, then the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by phone prior to entering an advisory action.

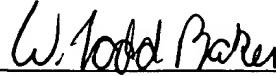
Further, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the examiner's approval of the "proposed drawing correction." However, Applicants respectfully point out that it submitted formal drawings on December 26, 2002.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and the above remarks, Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Application No. 09/930,202  
Reply to Office Action of August 20, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

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